India's stand on Minimum Nuclear Deterrent

533. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed its stand on the Minimum Nuclear Deterrent, in the light of the US Government's announcement about building up its National Missile Defence (NMD) system while minimizing nuclear arsenal; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof indicating the Chinese and Pakistani reaction to the US proposal for NMD?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

India's stand on Shift in United State's Nuclear Strategy

534. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have endorsed the US Nuke strategy shift as spelt out by the US President George Bush in a speech in Virginia on 2nd May, 2001 to shift the US's nuclear strategy away from deterrence towards missile defence and summed as erecting a shield while simultaneously blunting the sword;

(b) if so, with what qualifications and reservations, if any; and

(c) the US response to India's stand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) In Government's official statement of 2nd May 2001, it was stated, *inter alia*, that "India, particularly, welcomes the announcement of unilateral reductions by the US of nuclear forces, as an example. We also welcome moving away from the hair-trigger alerts associated with prevailing nuclear orthodoxies. India believes that there is a strategic and technological inevitability in stepping away from a world that is held hostage by the doctrine of MAD to a cooperative, defensive transition that is underpinned by further cuts and a de-alert of nuclear forces. We note with appreciation the US resolve to seek dialogue, consultation and